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SUBURBAN MOJO is 50¢/stamp from Matthew Guest, TCU PO Box 31747, Fort Worth, TX 76129.

Coulton Waugh's seminal historical critique of the earliest comic strips, *THE COMICS*, will be reissued by University of Mississippi Press. The book was first published in 1947 and while Waugh was a cartoonist and insider himself he has written fairly about his colleagues. Born in 1896, Waugh died in 1973. This new edition of his book is introduced by Thomas Inge.

The fact is that talent has no relationship to character, politics, or morality. There are gifted people who are monsters, charmers whose talents are excessively limited, but fortunately there are more than enough who combine the affirmative values of character and talent, thereby making life in the arts a joy.

—Dore Schary

Tough executives never ask employees to sit. An employee standing and asking for anything becomes a panhandler with hat in hand and holes in his socks. —Dore Schary

The fact is we are in an era of accentuated self-aggrandizement. Rock stars are covered in greater detail than Nobel Prize winners. Oscars, Emmys, Tonys, Obies, Grammys, Golden Globes are solicited by trade ads and ploys in favored columns. Bad taste in pursuit of glory awards is not only permissible, it is encouraged. Then the winners weep and thank everyone, beginning with their sister Kate and ending with the Almighty. —Dore Schary. HEYDAY.

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COMIX PLUGOLA

Fantagraphics has published a collection of Robert Crumb Postcards. There are 10 in the set. It sells locally at Comic Relief for \$4.95.

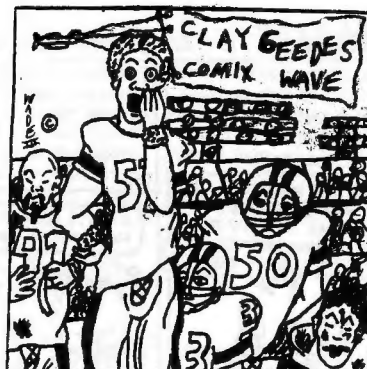
The Oakland *TRIBUNE* censored a number of *DOONESBURY* strips in January after the US started bombing Iraq. The editor said the strips were not printed because the "subject matter wasn't relevant to the fast-changing events surrounding the fighting in the Middle East." Since when do comic strips have to be relevant to contemporary reality?



IAN FLEMING'S FANTASY BECOMES REALITY

According to plans and photos obtained by two German magazines, *BUNTE* and *QUICK*, the bathroom in Saddam Hussein's underground bunker is decorated with turquoise tiles and includes a toilet equipped with closed-circuit, self-disinfecting water supply meant to protect him from the public water supply if it should happen to be poisoned by radiation or chemical attack. The \$65 million dollar underground palace was built by a German company in 1981 and 1982. It sleeps 50 and lies 15 feet below ground. Built to withstand temperatures up to 572 degrees, the bunker includes chandeliers, wood-paneled walls, a television studio, and a swimming pool heated to 72 degrees.

Marc Fisher
The Washington Post.



Diamond Press has published a new title by Joe Zabel and Gary Dumm. *MODERN PULP*. The lead story, *STEALTH*, deals with a kind of mystical relationship between a woman and a tiger. The material in this comic is reprinted from *JANUARY MIDNIGHT*.

Dave Sim's story *MELMOTH* continues in *CEREBUS* 142. His *CEREBUS* reprint series is up to 50.

HARASSMENT BY CALENDAR

U. S. District Judge Howell Melton ruled that 30 pictures of nude and semi-nude women displayed at Jacksonville Shipyards, Inc. sexually harassed Lois Robinson, a female welder who brought the complaint in 1986. The pictures were mostly on tool supply company calendars. "A pre-existing atmosphere that deters women from entering or continuing in a profession or job is no less destructive to and offensive to workplace equality than a sign declaring *Men Only*," wrote Melton in his opinion.

The kind of guys you used to see in crewcuts now have beards and long hair while the longhairs are now baldies and spikers.

Along Telegraph Avenue peace and war are selling well. There are t-shirts to represent all sides. A woman showed me a t-shirt that had peace on it in what she said were 86 languages. I didn't count them. A woman sitting at a table selling jewelry had a sign up that read: To Kill one person is murder, to kill a hundred thousand is foreign policy.

COMIX PLUGOLA

Steve Willis says he will fill the gap left by the demise of CITY LIMITS GAZETTE. He promises a simple newsletter with plugs. First issue out this spring. POB 390, McCleary, WA 98557-0390. Steve writes that he will not be competing with my newsletter. To that, I say what's to compete FOR in this game, the right to give people free publicity and ego-boo? I'm not really in competition with anyone these days. I just do whatever it is that I do. Mike Gunderoy of FACTSHEET FIVE referred to CW as a personalzine. Aren't they all? I can't imagine what an impersonalzine would be like. Hey, I'm no more objective than the evening news and we all know what a lot of pro-war establishment propaganda that is. Every time someone tries to cram me into the Pop Culture bag, I have to suspect that if what I write about is popular culture then maybe they are writing about is unpopular culture.

Let me suggest to Steve that he not be so nice in his zine. To be nice is to be forgotten. Think on it. The most remembered person in Golden Age comics is Frederic Wertham who made a career out of attacking comics in print and lectures. He wrote a terrible book called SEDUCTION OF THE INNOCENT out of his lectures and scared a timid comics industry into publishing a peurile Code in 1954. Fred, a shrink by trade, knew how to score a place in history--attack.

I've often thought that I could have been a lot more helpful to the folks who drew and published underground comix back in the early seventies if I had attacked what they were doing instead of promoting it. When I read my early newsletters, I realize I was being a nice guy, trying to be friends with everyone. Think on it. If I had attacked the comix as immoral or communistic or some other buzzword, there might have been a controversy and someone might have been moved to talk about the comix in the Big Media causing thousands of them to be sold. Fred talked about stuff like PHANTOM LADY undermining the morals of youth and creating juvenile delinquency. I could have

As artists I believe our function is to express the feelings of the human race--to always speak the truth and never keep it hidden even though we are operating in a world which does not like the sound of the truth.
-Sinead O'Connor.

TEAM PLAYERISM

State and Pentagon have large press relations forces whose job it is to herd the press and shape the news. There are many ways to punish a reporter who gets out of line; if a big story breaks at 3 A.M., the press office may neglect to notify him while his rivals get the story. There are as many ways to flatter and take a reporter into camp--private off-the-record dinners with high officials, entertainment at the service clubs. Reporters tend to be absorbed by the bureaucracies they cover; they take on the habits, attitudes and even accents of the military or the diplomatic corps.

--L. F. STONE
The Haunted Fifties.

said that about ZAP COMIX or the FREAK BROTHERS. Jeez, guys, I could have been the great anti-comix crusader of the hippy era! I could have had hippies throwing joints at me on Haight Street! I could have held up RADICAL AMERICA on the Donahue show and said Look at this Commie rot, folks!

As it was, the Establishment simply lumped the underground comix with everything else weird that was happening in those acid days. They were declared a fad that was dead by the end of 1969 and those outside the comics community believe this just like they believe that sugar-coated cereals are really food and the current war has to do with the liberation of Kuwait.

In the seventies, there was as great a proliferation of comic ideas and titles as there was in the early forties when there were hundreds of studios and companies. I have well over a thousand titles in my own collection and there are collectors who have many more. Some of these were one-shots that went no further, but titles like ZAP and FREAK BROTHERS have a continuity from their inception to the present day which certifies that they are not and never were simply a fad. Underground comix broke the East Coast monopoly and in 1991 there is comix activity in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, Washington, and Wisconsin where there was none before the late sixties. Newave and minicomix of the late seventies and early eighties were a continuation and expansion of underground comix. Alternative, Ground-Level, or Black and White comics were made possible by the underground breakthrough.

Underground newspapers rose out of academic communities circa 1964-65 in reaction to the undeclared war in Viet Nam, and I suspect we will see their rebirth in the early nineties.

To be honest with you, I write what I feel like writing these days and I don't really give a damn what anyone thinks about it. I'm not writing for approval. I have my groupies and my intellectual opponents, but I don't particularly cater to one or the other. I'm just reacting to the mindrot around me. My COMIX WAVE persona might turn into Crusader Rabbit at times, but only because he would like to stimulate some lively comment.

...walking down Haight Street in San Francisco and saying hello to everybody. It was a rare moment for those of us who made music, being in this really happy environment full of really intelligent people who were all doing some heady stuff. --Country Joe McDonald

Rip Off Press is coming out with THE GIRL and THE MAGICAL NYMPHINI, both adults only sex comix. They will also publish Grass Green's HORNY COMICS AND STORIES #1.

Here's The Daily Californian publishing a front page story on February 5, 1991, about some swingers who appeared on the Donahue show. This is news? I wonder who got the Oprah assignment.

England has such a small show business community that if you don't become a part of it and join the Variety Club and do charity work, then you're looked upon as some kind of weirdo.

--Mick Jagger

Eric Shanower's THE BLUE WITCH OF OZ will be out this Spring.

Ace Backwards takes on the war in TWISTED IMAGE 26. \$1 from 1630 University Ave., #26, Berkeley, CA 94703.

El Vibora 132 is \$9 pp from J. M. Berengueuer, Plaza Beatas 3, Barcelona, Spain. Contains a Crumb reprint in Spanish.

Check out the show of MAD originals at the newly renovated Cartoon Art Museum in San Francisco, California. 665 Third Street. Sergio Aragones and Kelly Freas will conduct sessions for cartoonists. Call and ask about the hours. 415-546-3922.

HEY, NEETERS 7 is \$1.50 pp from Mike Sagara, POB 1378, Belmont, CA 94002.

FIGHT CENSORSHIP!

JohnCon III will happen in Baltimore, Maryland, kon April 6, 1991, and the guys at the Johns Hopkins University Comic Book Club will hold an auction to make some money for the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund. If you want to do your bit to nip censorship in the bud, you can donate something to this auction. Send a comic book or a piece of original art to Stephen Kent-Jusick at the club, Charles and 34th Streets, SAC Office, Baltimore, MD 21218-2693.

OY, RADCLIFFE!

Cliffies of Sasha's [Sasha Bruce] day divided themselves into three "flavors"; peach, chocolate, and lime. Peaches were clubby and social; they wore coats with fur collars, went with boys who smoked pipes, and majored in fine arts or English. Chocolates came from public high schools, wore large plaids, eyeglasses, and thick boots. The grinds of Radcliffe, they majored in science and math. Some joined Phillips Brooks House, the social service organization; others were simply obsessed with high grades, going on to graduate school and careers. The limes were the intellectuals, the arty ones who had already lived in foreign countries, hung Greek shoulder bags over their arms, and had pierced ears. They were loners who seldom made many friends.

--Joan Mellon

PRIVILEGE: The Enigma of Sasha Bruce, 1982.

TWISTED IMAGE by Ace Backwards ©1991

